

HELICOSTYLA FROM THE TALAUD ISLANDS,
MOLUCCA ISLANDS, EAST INDIES

BY WILLIAM J. CLENCH

The Talaud Islands (Tular and Talauer are various spellings) compose a small archipelago that is situated about midway between Mindanao Island, Philippines and Halmahera (Gilolo) in the Dutch East Indies. They are included in the Molucca group of these latter islands and are approximately 120 miles N.E. of Halmahera.

During the winter cruise of the yacht "Cheng Ho" in 1940, Dr. and Mrs. David Fairchild collected a large series of three species of *Helicostyla* at Arangkaa, Karakelong Island, Talaud Islands.

The importance of locating *Helicostyla tukanensis* Pfr. on this island corrects what has been a rather persistent error since the original citation of Pfeiffer.

In 1871, Pfeiffer described in the *Malakozoologische Blätter* 18, pp. 119-124, six new land shells, five of which he received from J. H. Thomson of New Bedford, Mass. Thomson may have collected this material as he had been a ship's master, or it is equally possible that he may have received his specimens from some sailor friend who had visited the East Indies. At any rate, material was credited to both Tukan Bessi Island (off the southeastern peninsula of Celebes Island) and from Tular Island. The former is 750 miles to the south of Tular [Talaud] Islands. There appears to have been some question regarding the data of certain of these new forms as Pfeiffer had indicated two of them with question marks.

The present collection straightens out a few of these uncertainties besides correcting an anomaly, the existence of a few species well outside the known range of other members of the genus.

The locality for the four following species is Arangkaa, Karakelong Island, Talaud Group, Molucca Islands.

HELICOSTYLA (CALOCOCHLEA) TUKANENSIS Pfeiffer

Helix tukanensis Pfr. 1871, *Malak. Blätt.* 18, p. 122 (Tukan Bessi Island); *ibid.*, 1872, *Novit. Conch.* 4, p. 72, pl. 121, fig. 5-9.

Cochlostyla (Calocochlea) tukanensis Pfr. Pilsbry 1891, Man. Conch. (2) 7, p. 132, pl. 29, fig. 7-9, 12.

Pilsbry (i. e.) gives "Pular Islands" on the authority of Horn. This is apparently a mis-spelling or an alternative for Tular.

HELICOSTYLA (CORASIA) SUBPUELLA Pilsbry.

Helix lais Pfr. var. 1875, Novit. Conch. 4, p. 114, pl. 126, fig. 6-7 (Tukan Bessi Island).

Cochlostyla (Corasia) puella subpuella Pils. 1891, Man. Conch. (2) 7, p. 121, pl. 24, fig. 19-21, 24, 26 (Basilan, Philippines; Tukan Bessi Island).

This species was not cited among the new species described in the Malak. Blätt., but was figured and given the locality of Tukan Bassi in the Novit. Conch. (l. e.) as a variety without name, which was later described by Pilsbry. This was another one of the Thomson species which was in error as to locality. Pilsbry's record of Basilan Island, Philippines is also open to question.

HELICOSTYLA (CORASIA) PHYSALIS Pfeiffer.

Helix physalis Pfr. 1871, Malak. Blätt. 18, p. 123 ("Tular Island"—Thomson); *ibid.*, 1872, Novit. Conch. 4, p. 73, pl. 121, fig. 10-11.

Cochlostyla (Corasia) physalis Pfr. Pilsbry 1891, Man. Conch. (2) 7, p. 115, pl. 27, fig. 2-3 (Tular [Talaur?] Island). This is the only species properly localized by Thomson.

OBBA MARGINATA Müller.

Helix marginata Müller, 1774, Vermium Terr. Fluv. 2, p. 41.—Pfeiffer 1852, Conchy.-Cab. (2) 1, pt. 12, sec. 2, p. 69, pl. 78, fig. 7-9 (Philippines).

This species as well as two of the others listed above, was wrongly localized by Thomson. In his paper on the land shells of the Celebes (Malak. Blätt. 20, p. 171, 1873) von Martens queries the locality of Tukun (or Tufun?) Besi for the specimens which he had received from Thomson. Reading between the lines, it would appear that Von Martens was having trouble

with Thomson's handwriting. Von Martens assigns it, with a query, to the Sulu group of islands in the Philippines. The present material, however, fixes the locality (of Thomson's material) as the Talaud Island group. The species appears to be widespread in the Philippines and not localized on any one island.

TWO NEW GENERA, TWO NEW SPECIES, AND TWO NEW NAMES OF CHINESE MELANIIDAE

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In preparing an annotated catalogue of the Chinese Melaniidae, two genera and two species were found to be undescribed. Also, two described species were found to be in need of valid names. Since publication of this catalogue has been delayed for an indefinite time, I think it is best to extract the new things and publish them separately, in order to make them available to other workers.

I wish here to express my appreciation to the authorities of the United States National Museum for the opportunity to make these studies of their collections, and especially to thank Dr. Paul Bartsch for his most kind guidance of my work on this material.

Genus HEMIMITRA Swainson 1840

HEMIMITRA TANGI, new species, Pl. 6, Fig. 2.

Shell small, solid, ovate-conic, dark brown. The interior of the aperture is bluish white. Nuclear whorls eroded. Post-nuclear whorls inflated, strongly rounded and marked with incremental lines. The spiral sculpture consists of microscopic threads. The last whorl which constitutes nearly the whole length of the shell, is inflated, with strongly rounded periphery and has a narrow dark band at the summit. The suture is moderately constricted. Base short, well rounded. Aperture pyriform; peristome simple, thin; parietal wall covered with a thin callus; columella concave and nearly vertical. The operculum is thin, corneous having 2.3 turns with a subcentral nucleus. The radula has the formula: 3-1-3: 2-1-5: 6: 8.